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To: Examiner Derek John Rosenau, Group Art Unit 2834

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From: Andrew D. St.Clair

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Please direct all questions concerning the transmittal of these pages to Ronita Fleming.

RE: Serial No. 10/588,260 (Kazuo YOKOYAMA et al.), filed August 3, 2006

MESSAGE:

Examiner Rosenau,

As we discussed yesterday, I have attached a proposed claim amendment. New claim 40 contains the subject matter of claims 16 and 32 with one additional change shown on the last two lines of the claim. Claim 32 was indicated as allowable in the Office Action of January 29, 2009; please consider whether new claim 40 would be allowable.

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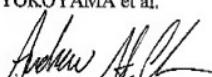
New claim 41 contains the subject matter of claims 16 and 32 without additional changes, for purposes of comparison.

As I mentioned yesterday, my direct telephone number is (202) 721-8215. I will call you tomorrow, Thursday April 23, 2009 if I don't hear from you before then. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuo YOKOYAMA et al.

By:



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PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

40. (New) A flat-plate low-profile actuator, comprising:

a planar conductive polymer layer extending in a longitudinal direction;

a first electrode in contact with the planar conductive polymer layer;

a second electrode disposed opposite to the first electrode; and

an electrolyte layer in contact with the planar conductive polymer layer, disposed in between the first electrode and the second electrode;

wherein the first electrode is planar and comprises at least one band-like portion and at least one link portion, each of the at least one link portion extending in the longitudinal direction, each of the at least one band-like portion extending in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and each of the at least one link portion is shorter than each of the at least one band-like portion; and

wherein application of an electric potential between the first electrode and the second electrode deforms the planar conductive polymer layer such that the flat-plate low-profile actuator expands or contracts in the longitudinal direction;

wherein the planar conductive polymer layer has a first side extending in the longitudinal direction and a second side extending in the longitudinal direction; wherein the at least one band-like portion is a plurality of band-like portions, wherein the at least one link portion is a plurality of link portions, wherein the plurality of link portions connect adjacent band-like portions, and wherein the plurality of link portions alternate between being disposed on the first side and the second side such that the band-like portions and the link portions cumulatively form a zig-zag pattern. are arranged in the longitudinal direction of the electrode.

[[Subject matter of claims 16 and 32 with one change]]

41. (New) A flat-plate low-profile actuator, comprising:

a planar conductive polymer layer extending in a longitudinal direction;

a first electrode in contact with the planar conductive polymer layer;

a second electrode disposed opposite to the first electrode; and

an electrolyte layer in contact with the planar conductive polymer layer, disposed in between the first electrode and the second electrode;

wherein the first electrode is planar and comprises at least one band-like portion and at least one link portion, each of the at least one link portion extending in the longitudinal direction, each of the at least one band-like portion extending in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and each of the at least one link portion is shorter than each of the at least one band-like portion; and

wherein application of an electric potential between the first electrode and the second electrode deforms the planar conductive polymer layer such that the flat-plate low-profile actuator expands or contracts in the longitudinal direction;

wherein the planar conductive polymer layer has a first side extending in the longitudinal direction and a second side extending in the longitudinal direction; wherein the at least one band-like portion is a plurality of band-like portions, wherein the at least one link portion is a plurality of link portions, wherein the plurality of link portions connect adjacent band-like portions, and wherein the plurality of link portions alternate between being disposed on the first side and the second side such that the band-like portions and the link portions cumulatively form a zig-zag pattern.

[[Subject matter of claims 16 and 32]]